MEETING SUMMARY
FERNALD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEES
MARCH 20, 2002
T-138 CONFERENCE ROOM

Attendees:
Donna Bohannon (OEPA)
Dave Brettschneider (Fluor Fernald)
John Homer (Fluor Fernald)
Rob Janke (DOE)
Rob Kneip (Fluor Fernald)
Bill Kurey (FWS)
Lee McDaniel (Fluor Fernald)
Frank Miller (Fluor Fernald)
Tom Schneider (OEPA)
Harold Swiger (Fluor Fernald)
Eric Woods (Fluor Fernald)
Pete Yerace (DOE)

1. Frank Miller provided the NRTs with an overview of the path forward for certification of the SWU. The Certification Report for the majority of the SWU will be ready for submittal to the Agencies by April 1, 2002. The certification units located on and adjacent to the haul road north of the SWU will not be included in the Certification Report submitted on April 1, 2002, but certification data will be available in early April. Restoration work, including installation of the "Geogrid" access road into the SWU, will be sequenced so that all parties can confirm there are no certification issues in the perimeter Certification Units prior to the initiation of work. The NRTs agreed that as long as no certification issues were identified, restoration work could proceed prior to formal submittal/approval of the Certification Reports.

2. Dave Brettschneider and Rob Kneip discussed the Aquifer Restoration Project's proposal for creating an infiltration basin in the former Basin #2 at the SWU. It was agreed that the water entering the SWU would be managed according to the following priorities: 1. Water to support wetland features; 2. Water to support the new infiltration basin; and 3. Water discharge to Paddys Run under extreme flood conditions. Stormwater entering the new infiltration basin would be fed by water that has passed through the wetland complex to allow sedimentation to settle out prior to entering the infiltration basin. Water in the infiltration basin may also be supplemented with piped water as determined appropriate by the Aquifer Restoration Project.

   The existing wetland area in the SWU will be expanded to create more water holding capacity. The basin will not be lowered below the existing 532 msl elevation to avoid exposing sand and gravel and draining the area into the aquifer. The pond in the Carolina Area, adjacent to the former Basin #2, will be re-established through the installation of a berm between it and the former Basin #2. The pond will hold water permanently, but may be inundated during high flow events becoming part of infiltration basin in the former Basin #2 area. A revised grading plan will be developed based on agreements at the meeting and made available to the NRTs on e-Desk.

Upland areas will not be seeded until fall, following soil amendment this summer. A filter strip will be established with a dense seeding of annual rye along the lowest contour of the area (roughly the 537 msl elevation) not restored. The filter strip will help to reduce erosion into the wetland features. Permanent seeding will occur in the wetland area and areas immediately adjacent to the wetland area, below 537 msl elevation. The early establishment of dense vegetation using wetland plugs around the existing infiltration ponds will be a priority to help slow the rate of plugging from erosion into the ponds.

Dormant willow cuttings will be purchased as specified in the design for spring planting. On-site cuttings will be obtained and installed in the fall as needed to supplement to the spring planting. Woody plants will be concentrated in the former AFP and Carolina Area since most the SWU will not be available for planting this spring.

Geogrid will be used for road construction to both the center of the wetland area, and to the new injection well to be installed. The seed mix for the Geogrid road will be determined separately. The installation of the Geogrid road will not occur until the Aquifer Restoration Project has made a final decision on the location of the well. Staff gauges will be installed in the wetland and infiltration areas to track water levels.

3. The planting approach for the Northern Pines was discussed by the NRTs. A proposal was made by Fluor to use the planned number of trees and shrubs for the area, but to concentrate plantings in dense clusters in an effort to leave corridors for deer movement. Dense clusters of plants, with adjacent open corridors, may lessen impact to plants from browsing. It was further proposed that consideration be given to fencing some of the clusters be fenced to exclude deer from the planted areas. The planting clusters within the deer fence could be compared to the planting clusters without fence to determine differences in the extent of deer damage and plant survival. OEPA requested that the Fluor Deer Consultant provide written comments on the design to ensure that it is the best design to minimize deer damage. The NRTs generally agreed with the proposal to concentrate plantings into clusters and agreed to further discuss the fence proposal after receiving more information on the type of fence being proposed.

4. Pete Yerace raised a number of DOE issues that have surfaced in the last few months regarding settlement negotiations. The key issues between DOE and the NRTs discussed at the meeting included: The duration and scope of both implementation and functional monitoring of restored areas related to the Site Completion Date; The duration of maintenance actions in restored areas related to the Site Completion Date; The inclusion of deer impacts in the 80% survival requirement for trees and shrubs; and the appropriateness of the size of saplings being used for restoration. It was agreed that the issues could not be resolved with the parties present at the meeting and discussions were tabled to a later date. It was agreed that DOE would formally submit the latest version of the NRRP to the NRTs.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.